

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 117-220 are pending in the application, with claims 117, 127, 135, 143, 151, 160, 176, 184, 191, and 210 being the independent claims. In the Office Action of July 3, 2003, the Examiner indicated that all previous rejections and objections regarding claims 117 and 120-220 had been overcome. In the Office Action of June 17, 2003, the Examiner noted that claims 117 and 120-220 were allowable.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action of July 3, 2003, the Examiner argued that Applicants' amendments to claims 118 and 119 made in the Amendment filed on May 12, 2003, rendered the claims indefinite, and thus rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. According to the Examiner, the term "further comprising" is indefinite because the claims might cover a polypeptide with a large duplication.

Applicants respectfully traverse. The transitional language of claims 118 and 119 clearly indicates that the claimed polypeptides must include, in addition to amino acids 1 to 233 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids -25 to -1 of SEQ ID NO:2 (claim 118) or amino acids -26 to -1 of SEQ ID NO:2 (claim 119).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

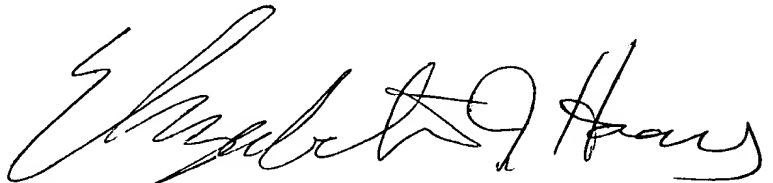
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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